

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee Bob Stump, Chairman

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CHAIRMAN STUMP REACTS TO 2002 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

“In one of the most important State of the Union addresses in our nation’s history, President Bush tonight presented a compelling and uplifting vision of America’s future - exactly what the American people need during this time of global and economic challenge.

“Our nation stands today at the vanguard in the fight against global terrorism. The President correctly reminded the American people that this struggle will be neither easy nor quick. It will require patience, determination, sacrifice, and an unyielding commitment to providing the necessary resources to government agencies that are engaged in this fight.

“I am particularly encouraged by the President’s clear commitment to supporting the U.S. armed forces in their difficult mission. After inheriting a military that was woefully lacking in resources and characterized by the magnitude of its shortfalls, President Bush and Congress have begun to make significant progress in turning things around. President Bush tonight reminded all Americans that providing for our nation’s defense is the federal government’s number one priority.

“Just one year ago, the President declared that the United States military must remain second-to-none and requested the largest single defense budget increase since the mid-1980s. Tonight, he repeated the feat by requesting a still larger defense budget increase - the largest since the Reagan buildup of the early 1980s.

“This is an important and necessary step, and it is the right one. However, the reality is that the damage done to our nation’s military by more than a decade of decline will take many years to repair.

“I look forward to working with President Bush and his team in the coming weeks and months. Together, we will continue to rebuild America’s military and ensure that America’s national security needs are properly met.”

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